

GOVERNOR BARBOUR: ADDITIONAL \$100 MILLION ALLOCATED FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING

(JACKSON, Mississippi) – Governor Haley Barbour said today an additional \$100 million has been allocated to help restore housing for workforce income families on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, boosting the program to a total of \$250 million.

“Restoration of the affordable housing stock is absolutely vital to Coast recovery from Hurricane Katrina, the worst natural disaster in American history,” Governor Barbour said. “The commitment of these additional dollars will produce an estimated 2,500 to 4,000 housing units for workforce income families whose skills we need to rebuild the Coast.”

The additional money is being made available through the Long-Term Workforce Housing program, a component of a comprehensive recovery plan funded by federal Community Development Block Grants awarded to Mississippi after Katrina.

Initially funded at a level of \$150 million, the Long-Term Workforce Housing program features competitive proposals from for-profit and non-profit entities to construct workforce housing in Mississippi’s southernmost counties, including Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, and Pearl River counties.

These proposals, which must meet HUD requirements regarding low income families, will leverage private capital with CDBG funds to construct single family, multi-family rental, and home ownership units that will be available to mixed income tenants and/or owners.

The Mississippi Development Authority, which manages the program, issued a request for proposals in September 2007; winners in the first competitive round are expected to be announced within the next 30 days.

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